exchange reserves of India have been constantly declining from April, 1995 onwards;

(b) whether it is also a fact that as reported in the "The Times of India', dated the 15th November, 1995, the foreign exchange reserves which stood approximately 20 billion dollars in the first week of April, 1995 came down to 18.86 billion in October and further declined to 17.45 billion dollars on 3rd November, 1995;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take or have taken to ensure that the foreign exchange reserves of the country do not further decline?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD PAL): (a) and (b) The foreign exchage reserves of India, excluding gold and Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), have declined from US $ 20809 million at the end of March, 1995 to US $ 18865 milion on October, 13. 1995 and further to US $ 17451 million on November 3, 1995.

(c) The decline in official foreign exchange reserves as above reflects the imbalance in receipts and payments on account of foreign exchange transactions routed through the Reserve Bank of India, including RBI's market intervention to stabilise the exchange rate of the rupee consistent with the economic fundamentals.

(d) The Government has taken a number of measures on both the domestic and external fronts which should Strang then the country's external trade and payments situation.

Proposals to develop Tourism Industry in Coastal Areas of Saurashtra and Kutch

863. SHRI RAJBUBHAI A. PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to develop tourism Industry in the coastal areas of Saurashtra and Kutch;

(b) whether State Government of Gujarat have sent any detaled scheme in this regard;

(c) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereon and what steps have so far been taken to clear it;

(d) whether Government have since sanctioned any financial assistance in this regard; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (e) development of tourism in specific areas is primarily the responsibility of the respective State Governments. No detailed scheme has been received from the Government of Gujarat regarding development of tourism industry in the coastal areas of Saurashtra and Kutch.

Hank Yarn Obligation Rule

864. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some handloom units arc receiving yarn from spinning mills under hank yarn obligation rule although they are not operational for a long time; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government against such handloom units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TERXTILES (SHRI KAMALNATH): (a) spinning mills are reuired to fulfil their Hank Yarn Obligation and make available yarn in Hank form to the market through civil deliveries. The level of working of any handlom unit does not form the basis for its receiving hank yarn from spinning mills.

(b) Does not arise.